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SENATE

{ REPORT
106-268

WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

APRIL 12, 2000.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1910]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 1910) to amend the act establishing Women's Rights National Historical Park to permit the Secretary of the Interior to acquire title in fee simple to the Hunt House located in Waterloo, New York, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

On page 1, line 5, strike "97-607" and insert in lieu thereof "96-607".

On page 2, line 5, strike "97-607" and insert in lieu thereof "96-607".

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 1910 is to amend the enabling legislation for the Woman's Rights National Historical Park to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Hunt House in Waterloo, New York for inclusion in the park's boundary.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Women's Rights National Historical Park was established in 1980 by Public Law 96-607. The park was established to preserve and interpret for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations the nationally significant historical and cultural sites and structures associated with the struggle for equal rights for women and to cooperate with State and local entities to

preserve the character and historic setting of such sites and structures.

The enabling legislation provided that the park would consist initially of a number of designated sites in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York, including the Hunt House. The Act, however, limited the Secretary of the Interior to acquiring less than fee title to the Hunt House.

During the summer of 1999, the Hunt House was placed on the market, and was subsequently acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. S. 1910 would remove the restriction against fee simple acquisition by the Secretary and allow the house to be acquired for inclusion within the boundaries of the historical park.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 1910 was introduced by Senators Moynihan and Schumer on November 10, 1999. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation held a hearing on S. 1910 on March 8, 2000.

At its business meeting on April 5, 2000, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 1910 favorably reported, with an amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on April 5, 2000, by a unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 1910, if amended as described herein.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

During its consideration of S. 1910, the Committee adopted a technical amendment to correct the references to the park's enabling legislation in the bill from Public Law 97-607 to Public Law 96-607.

SUMMARY OF THE MEASURE

S. 1910 amends Public Law 96-607 by removing the restrictions placed on fee simple acquisition of the Hunt House and other properties. It also makes a technical correction to correct the name of "Williams Street" to "Main Street" in paragraph (c) of the act which established the historical park. The section also repeals language that requires the Secretary of the Interior to remove all structures not relevant to the historic integrity of the McClintock House within two years of acquisition of the property.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Congressional Budget Office estimate of the costs of this measure has been requested but was not received at the time the report was filed. When the report is available, the Chairman will request it to be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 1910. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 1910.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The legislative report received by the Committee from the Department of the Interior setting forth Executive agency recommendation relating to S. 1910, is set forth below:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2000.

Hon. FRANK MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter presents the Department's views on S. 1910, a bill that amends the enabling legislation for the Women's Rights National Historical Park in New York by authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire title in fee simple to the Hunt House in Waterloo, New York.

The Department supports enactment of this legislation.

S. 1910 authorizes the Secretary to acquire, without restriction, the Hunt House at Women's Rights National Historical, the last remaining site in private ownership that the Congress has identified as significant to the story of the park. The Women's Rights National Historical Park, established in 1980 through Public Law 96-607, was created to preserve and interpret the important sites associated with the First Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. That legislation originally identified nine sites that would make up the features of the park. The Secretary was authorized to acquire a fee simple title to six of those nine sites. With regard to the remaining three sites, the Secretary was authorized only to acquire a less-than-fee interest in the sites. The home of Jane Hunt, located in Waterloo, New York, was one of the sites.

On July 9, 1848, Jane Hunt hosted a tea during which Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and her sister Martha Wright, and Mary Ann M'Clintock decided to hold the nation's first women's rights convention. Stanton and M'Clintock met at M'Clintock's house on July 14, 1848, to draft the Declaration of Sentiments presented at the convention on July 19 and 20, 1848. Richard and Jane Hunt contributed to the development of education in Waterloo by founding the Waterloo Academy in 1844, with Richard Hunt on the Board of Trustees. The Waterloo Woolen Mill, partly owned by Hunt, produced slave-free woolen cloth. The Hunts were active re-

formers and abolitionists and their home was a likely stop in the Underground Railroad.

When Women's Rights National Historical Park was established, the Hunt House was in private ownership. One family had owned the property since the 1940s. The owners were not interested in selling a less-than-fee interest in their property to the government, nor were they interested in negotiating with the National Park Service to open their home to the public for occasional tours or other special events. In the summer of 1999, the property was put up for sale. The Trust for Public Land and the National Trust for Historic Preservation worked together and purchased the Hunt House to ensure that the property would be available for public use and enjoyment. Their intent in acquiring the property was to hold it until such time as the NPS had the authority to acquire a fee simple title to the property and to open it to the public as part of Women's Rights National Historical Park.

As stated previously, Public Law 96-607 identified nine sites to initially make up Women's Rights National Historical Park. Subsequent amendments to Public Law 96-607 authorized fee simple acquisition of the M'Clintock House (P.L. 98-402) and deleted the Bloomer House from the park's boundary (P.L. 104-333, Division I, Section 505). The Hunt House is the only property within the boundary of Women's Rights National Historical Park which the Secretary does have the authority to acquire in fee. Section (a) of S. 1910 removes this restriction by deleting the language that limits the Secretary's authority to acquire the Hunt House. Section (b) of S. 1910 makes a technical correction to P.L. 96-607 by reinserting the correct address for the Hunt House that was incorrectly changed in the amendment contained in Public Law 104-333.

The Department supports a technical amendment to correct the public law cited in S. 1910. Sections (a) and (b) in S. 1910 amends Public Law 97-607. The correct citation should be Public Law 96-607.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

DONALD BARRY,
*Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks.*

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill S. 1910, as ordered reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed, in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

PUBLIC LAW 96-607—DEC. 28, 1980

AN ACT To provide, with respect to the national park system: for the establishment of new units; for adjustments in boundaries; for increases in appropriation authorizations for land acquisition and development; and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I

* * * * *

TITLE XVI

WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SEC. 1601. (a) * * *

* * * * *

(c) To carry out the purposes of this section there is hereby established the Women's Rights National Historical Park (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "park"). The park shall consist of the following designated sites in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York:

- (1) Stanton House, 32 Washington Street, Seneca Falls;
- (2) dwelling, 30 Washington Street, Seneca Falls;
- (3) dwelling, 34 Washington Street, Seneca Falls;
- (4) lot, 26-28 Washington Street, Seneca Falls;
- (5) former Wesleyan Chapel, 126 Fall Street, Seneca Falls;
- (6) theater, 128 Fall Street, Seneca Falls;
- (7) McClintock House, 16 East Williams Street, Waterloo;
- (8) Hunt House, 401 East [Williams] Main Street, Waterloo;
- (9) not to exceed 1 acre, plus improvements, as determined by the Secretary, in Seneca Falls for development of a maintenance facility;
- (10) dwelling, 1 Seneca Street, Seneca Falls;
- (11) dwelling, 10 Seneca Street, Seneca Falls;
- (12) parcels adjacent to Wesleyan Chapel Block, including Clinton Street, Fall Street, and Mynderse Street, Seneca Falls; and
- (13) dwelling, 12 East Williams Street, Waterloo.

(d) The Secretary is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from any other Federal agency, or exchange lands and interests therein within sites designated as part of the park. [except that the Secretary may not acquire the fee simple title to the land comprising the sites designated in paragraphs (7) and (9) of subsection (c) of this section.] Lands and interests therein owned by a State or political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation. [Within two years of the acquisition of the property listed in subsection (c)(8) of this section the Secretary shall have removed all structures from the property that are not relevant to the historic integrity of the McClintock House.]